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LISTING OF CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, along with their current status, is set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A data entry device comprising:

a key having a first data entry value associated with depressing the key;
the key having ~~one or more~~ additional discrete data entry values, a first one or more
each of the one or more additional discrete data entry values being associated
with deflecting the key in a predetermined direction and a second one or more
of the additional discrete data entry values being associated with
simultaneously depressing and deflecting the key in the predetermined
direction;
the key having a user readable indication of the first data entry value and each of the
one or more additional discrete data entry values; and
where the key is adapted for being depressed or deflected by a human fingertip.
2. (currently amended) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the first data entry value is a numeric data value and the one or more additional discrete data entry values are comprise alphabetic data values.
3. (currently amended) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the first one or more of the additional discrete data entry values are each associated with a predetermined zone around a periphery of the key.

4. (currently amended) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the first one or more of the additional discrete data entry values are each associated with an adjustable zone around a periphery of the key.
5. (currently amended) The data entry device of claim [4]1 further comprising a controllable display around the periphery of the key.
6. (original) The data entry device of claim 5 wherein the controllable display is an LCD.
7. (original) The data entry device of claim 3 wherein the number of predetermined zones is user selectable.
8. (original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the key is square in shape and the number of predetermined directions are four.
9. (original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the key is circular in shape and the number of predetermined directions are four, six, or eight.
10. (original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the key is hexagonal in shape and the number of predetermined directions are six.

11. (original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the key is octagonal in shape and the number of predetermined directions are eight.
12. (currently amended) A data entry device comprising:
a plurality of keys, each key having a first data entry value associated with depressing the key;
each key having one or more additional discrete data entry values associated with deflecting the key in a predetermined direction; and
each key having a user readable indication of the first data entry value and each of the one or more additional discrete data entry values; and
a plurality of the user readable indications having alphabetic characters arranged in positions relating to a QWERTY keyboard.
13. (currently amended) The data entry device of claim 12 wherein the plurality of keys comprise is a 12-key telephone numeric keypad, ~~and the additional discrete data entry values are alphabetic data values.~~
14. (currently amended) The data entry device of claim 12 wherein the plurality of keys is a three-key watch keypad, ~~and the additional discrete data entry values are numeric data values.~~

15. (currently amended) The data entry device of claim 12 wherein the plurality of keys is a three-key handheld computer keypad, and the additional discrete data entry values are representative of a QWERTY keyboard.

16-20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended) A method of programming a programmable data entry device, the data entry device having at least one hardware key capable of being depressed and actuated in at least one additional predetermined direction, wherein a first discrete data entry value corresponds with depressing the hardware key, the hardware key having a user readable indication of the first data entry value, the method comprising:

defining a first, second, and third data zones that is are actuated when the hardware key is depressed, deflected, or deflected and depressed, respectively, wherein the first, second, and third and at least one additional data zone corresponding to the at least one additional predetermined direction, the at least one additional data zones corresponding to an additional discrete data entry values; generating a display that includes a user readable indication corresponding to the additional discrete data entry values, the user readable indication being indicative of the at least one additional predetermined direction; wherein data corresponding to the additional discrete data entry values is generated when a user moves depresses, deflects, or depresses and deflects the hardware key in one of the first, second, and third data zones, respectively the predetermined direction.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, comprising:
performing a test to determine if the at least one additional data zone is capable of
being effectively actuated; and
wherein an acceptable result produced by the test indicates that the ~~at least one~~
~~additional second or third~~ data zone is capable of being effectively actuated
and an unacceptable result produced by the test indicates that the ~~second or~~
~~third at least one additional~~ data zone is not capable of being effectively
actuated.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:
selecting a different number of data zones if the test produces an unacceptable result;
and
repeating performing the user selection test.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:
selecting a different number of data zones if the test produces acceptable results; and
repeating performing the test.

25. (canceled).

26. (new) A data entry system comprising:
a plurality of discrete data values; and

a multifunctional key having a central portion and a plurality of peripheral portions, wherein each of the central and peripheral portions is movable to reference a different one of the plurality of discrete data entry values, wherein at least two portions of the multifunctional key are cooperatively movable to reference an additional value of the plurality of discrete data entry values.

27. (new) The system of claim 26, wherein the multifunctional key is pivotable between the central portion and the peripheral portions.

28. (new) The system of claim 26, wherein the at least two portions comprise the central portion and one or more of the peripheral portions.

29. (new) The system of claim 26, comprising a plurality of multifunctional keys arranged with user readable indications of the discrete data values in positions relating to a QWERTY keyboard.

30. (new) A data entry system comprising:
a plurality of discrete data values;
a plurality of keys each having a central portion and a plurality of peripheral portions, wherein each of the central and peripheral portions is movable to reference a different one of the plurality of discrete data values, and wherein the key is adapted for operation by a human fingertip; and

user readable indications associated with the plurality of keys displayed in relation to
the plurality of keys in positions relating to a QWERTY keyboard.

31. (new) The system of claim 30, wherein three keys are associated with the
user readable indications in positions relating to the QWERTY keyboard.

32. (new) The system of claim 30, wherein at least two portions of the keys are
simultaneously depressible to reference an additional one of the plurality of discrete data
values.

33. (new) The system of claim 32, wherein the at least two portions are disposed
adjacent one another on one of the keys.

34. (new) The system of claim 33, wherein the at least two portions are the
central and a one of the plurality of peripheral portions of the one of the keys.

35. (new) The system of claim 29, wherein at least one of the central portions and
one of the peripheral portions are sequentially movable to reference a one of the plurality of
discrete data values.

36. (new) A method of data entry, comprising:
referencing a first alphanumeric character in response to actuation of a first portion of
a key;

referencing a second alphanumeric character in response to actuation of a second portion of the key; and

referencing a third alphanumeric character in response to cooperative actuation of both the first and second portions of the key.

37. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the key is positioned in relation to a user viewable designation of the first, second, and third alphanumeric characters to represent a portion of a QWERTY keyboard.